

*Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Laboratories Administration
Chlamydia Lab*

**Swab Specimen Collection and Transport Procedures
Chlamydia trachomatis (CT)/Neisseria gonorrhoeae (GC) Q^x Amplified DNA Assay
A Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)**

Cervix/endocervix and male urethra are the only approved SWAB collection sites for this assay that are in use at the MD State Lab. See separate procedure for urine collection. For any other collection site (rectal, vaginal, throat etc.) use ChlamTrans Transport media for cell culture isolation.

MALE URETHRAL SWABS- Check the expiration date. Sample must be TESTED by this date. Use the Male (blue) Urethral Specimen Collection Kit for the BD ProbeTec™ CT/GC Q^x Amplified DNA Assays.

1. Remove the swab from the packaging and insert the swab 2-4 cm into the urethra and rotate for 3-5 seconds. Withdraw the swab. Continue with #4 under the Female Endocervical Swab section.

FEMALE ENDOCERVICAL SWABS- Check the expiration date. Sample must be TESTED by this date. Use the pink BD ProbeTec™ Q^x Collection Kit for Endocervical or Lesion Specimens. (Lesion samples are not appropriate for CT/GC testing. The State Lab does not use the BD Herpes test kit. Use this collection kit only for CT/GC Endocervical swabbing.)

1. Remove the **cleaning** swab (polyester fiber-tipped with **white** shaft) from the packaging and use it to remove excess blood and mucus from the cervical os. Discard the used cleaning swab.
2. Remove the **pink** shafted **collection** swab from the packaging and insert it into the cervical canal and rotate for 15-30 seconds.
3. Withdraw the swab carefully. Avoid contact with the vaginal mucosa.
4. Uncap the Q^x swab diluent tube and fully insert the collection swab into the tube.
5. Break the shaft of the swab at the score mark (**DO NOT** cut the shaft shorter) using care to avoid splashing and tightly recap.
6. Label the tube with the patient's name (matching the lab slip exactly) and the collection date/time.
7. Complete an **Infectious Agents: Culture/Detection** lab slip. If applicable, place an allocation sticker in the upper left corner **OR** select **Chlamydia trachomatis/GC NAAT** or **Chlamydia trachomatis only NAAT**. Be sure to include the source of the specimen (only CX or male URE) in the box next to the test requested or in the space provided on the allocation sticker. Fill in the collection date.
8. Seal the tube in the zip lock section of a biohazard transport bag and place the form in the outside pocket.
9. Swab specimens must be stored and transported to the lab at 2-30 °C within 30 days of collection. Please transport to the laboratory in an insulated container with cold packs to insure that the acceptable temperature range is not exceeded.

If you have any questions, please call the Chlamydia lab at 410-767-6154. Request supplies at 410-767-6120.